



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 24, 2006

***GOVERNOR KICKS OFF LATEST ROUND OF FUNDRAISING
FOR USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL***

PHOENIX – At the State Capitol this afternoon, Governor Janet Napolitano – the national chair of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund – led the kickoff of a grassroots effort to continue raising money necessary for the restoration of the Visitors Center at the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor.

Sixty-four years ago, on December 7, 1941, the USS Arizona battleship fell victim to the Japanese attack and sunk to the harbor floor. In September of last year, the Governor visited the memorial and the Visitors Center to see, firsthand, the damage that time has done.

The Center is quite literally sinking into the harbor. Experts have assessed the situation and determined that, after years of structural erosion and overcrowding, the Center has been damaged beyond repair. The facility will only be able to safely accommodate visitors for four to nine more years.

Replacing the Center will cost approximately \$34 million. Arizona has committed to raise \$3 million toward that total, as part of the nationwide campaign. So far, through the major gifts campaign, the effort has raised about half that amount.

Governor Napolitano said, "The Memorial is an important part of our history here in Arizona, as well as important part of American history. Now we start our Grass Roots Campaign to gather the contributions to meet our goal. It gives the people of Arizona the opportunity to accept the challenge to remember and honor the USS Arizona, as well as the six hundred thousand veterans in our state."

Those wishing to participate and contribute to the effort can find more information at <http://www.pearlharbormemorial.com/>.